



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL L. MOLGANO
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MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of Raised S.B. No. 54

An Act Concerning Collaboration Between Boards of Education and Law
Enforcement Personnel

Judiciary Committee

February 24, 2014

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I fully support the proposed intent of raised bill SB 54 to foster collaboration between Boards of Education and law enforcement agencies. The safety of Connecticut's children in our public schools is of paramount importance and deserves the full attention of the Judiciary Committee and the Connecticut General Assembly. I also believe it is of equal merit to ensure the safety of the entire population in our schools and write to request the framework of SB 54 be strengthened by adding language addressing the rights of educators and all public school staff in building a shared agreement.

I wish to point out a concern brought to my attention by educators in our public schools and law enforcement personnel. An issue raised in Stamford by both these professional groups is the absence of reporting on incidences occurring in public schools warranting the expertise of law enforcement. I too do not want to see children facing unwarranted criminal reprimands; however, I also do not want official or unofficial policies to inhibit educators or other school staff to call upon professional law enforcement agencies when confronted with incidents beyond their training in classroom or school discipline. Educators and staff should not be challenged by

making a choice between their personal safety, and the safety of their students, and the risk of repercussions for calling upon law enforcement to address serious situations. Agreed to policies must be in place, allowing educators and all public school staff to make decisions on safety without fear of retribution; these individuals must be given clear guidelines and support on protections afforded them by law.

We, as legislators, must ensure the safety of the entire population within our public schools, and I urge my colleagues in the Judiciary Committee to strengthen SB54 by adding language addressing the rights of educators and all public school staff in building a collaborative agreement.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Molgano

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Molgano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" at the beginning.

State Representative
District 144